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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/653,168	09/01/2000	Atsushi Kanke	381AS/49211	5472

7590 12/21/2001

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EXAMINER

DICKENS, CHARLENE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2855

DATE MAILED: 12/21/2001

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	Applicant(s)
09/653,168	KANKE et al
Dickens	2855

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE -3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication .
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- This action is FINAL.
- Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- Claim(s) 1 - 33 is/are pending in the application.
Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 Claim(s) 1 - 33 is/are rejected.
 Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.
- The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
 All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.

- received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.
 received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

Attachment(s)

- Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 5 Interview Summary, PTO-413
 Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892 Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
 Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948 Other _____

Office Action Summary

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.
2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Suzuki et al. Suzuki et al. teaches a hot-wire type air flow meter comprising: an exothermic resistor film 1A provided on a thin portion formed on a silicon substrate 4 and arranged in a measuring fluid (Fig. 2); and a control circuit (Fig. 3), wherein said resistor film is arranged in a suction pipe (col. 5, lines 22, 23) of the internal combustion engine (col. 1, lines 5-14) and emits heat to an air through said resistor film, and in the case where a liquid droplet is deposited onto said resistor film (col. 5, lines 25-45), said control circuit controls said applied voltage to a value smaller than a voltage which is applied to said resistor film at the time of measuring a maximum specified measuring range or controls said supply current to a value smaller than a current flowing in said resistor film at the time of measuring the maximum specified

measuring range (col. 5, lines 35-40); another exothermic resistor 1B provided on said silicon substrate in a portion other than said thin portion; first limiting means 7A for limiting said applied voltage or said supply current to a value which is equal to or less than a first value; and second limiting means 7B for limiting said applied voltage or said supply current to a value which is equal to or less than a second value smaller than said first value; changing means (6A, 6B) for changing a predetermined value or said second value on the basis of a temperature of the liquid droplet or a measuring fluid; wherein said changing means changes the value so as to reduce said predetermined value or said second value when said resistance value increases or changes the value so as to increase said predetermined value or said second value when said resistance value decreases; wherein a heat generation of said another exothermic resistor is controlled independent of said exothermic resistor.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Dickens whose telephone number is (703) 305-7047. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the receptionist or the customer service

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representative whose telephone numbers are (703) 308-0956 or (703) 308-4800 respectively. The fax numbers are (703) 305-3431 and (703) 305-3432.



cd/dickens
December 17, 2001

